

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Burton Blizzard W20720

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

Pendleton County }

On this 4th day of December 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pendleton County now sitting Burton Blizzard a resident of the said count, aged 76 years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. –

Sometime in the month of September 1777 (as nearly as I can now recollect) I entered the service as a volunteer in a company of Virginia Militia of the County of Rockingham [formed in 1778 from Augusta County], commanded by Captain Daniel Smith, which said company was raised for the purpose of guarding the frontier settlements against the Indians. I was marched to the west of the Alleghany Mountain [sic: Allegheny Mountains] to a place call'd. Tygerts Valley [sic: Tygart Valley] and there stationed in Friend's Fort [Fort Friend on Leading Creek near present Elkins WV], where I continued to serve as a private until the expiration of my three months term of service, when I was discharged.

Sometime in the month of September 1778, I was drafted in the County of Rockingham, and served a second tour of three months against the Indians, as a private in a company of Virginia Militia commanded by Lieutenant Frederick Keister under whom I was marched to Tygert's Valley and there stationed until the expiration of my term of service when I was discharged.

On the 4th or 5th of September 1779 (as near as I can now recollect,) I entered the service the third time as a substitute in the place of my younger brother John Blizzard who had been drafted to perform a three months Tour to the North West against the Indians. I entered the service as aforesaid as a private in the Company of Captain Robert Davis of the County of Rockingham, and was marched to the West Fork of the Monongahela [now West Fork River], where I was stationed in Lowder's Fort [sic: Col. William Lowther's Fort, also called Fort Richards, near present West Milford WV], and continued to serve until the expiration of my three months term of service when I was discharged; having in the whole served at least nine months as a private, during the War of the Revolution. In addition to this I served at least 20 days under the orders of Captain Robert Davis against the Tories.

I have no documentary evidence of my service, never having received a written or printed discharge; a part of my service I will be able to prove by the testimony of some one of the men who served with me.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State                      Burton hisXmark Blizzard  
[The tour to Fort Lowther was certified by Thomas Hoover, pension application S18029.]

The deposition of John Davis aged seventy two years on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1838: Testifies that he was well acquainted with Burton Blizzard and Sarah Blizzard his wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Keister, that he has been acquainted with them both ever since he could first recollect; he well remembers that he was present at the wedding party, when the said Burton Blizzard brought his wife home; to the best of his recollection and belief the said Burton Blizzard and Sarah Blizzard was married in the year of 1780 or 1781 he knows that they have always lived together as man and wife to the death of said Burton Blizzard, and that Sarah Blizzard is still his widow; and he further testifies that he well recollects that the said Burton Blizzard was drafted for a short tour of twenty days to march to Richmond Va. in the Spring

or early in the Summer of 1781 it was in the year that Cornwallis invaded the state of Va, that he served in this tour of duty under the command of deponants Father who was a Capt. of the Company, that they only marched a part of the way down, (he understood to the blue ridge mountains or the Shenandoah river at the foot of the mountains, they were then countermanded and returned and went against the Tories, on the waters of the Potomack river. This tour of duty was performed to the best of his recollection and belief by Burton Blizzard after his marriage with Sarah Blizzard his wife as aforesaid Given under my hand this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 1839

John Davis

NOTES:

A copy of a roster of Daniel Smith's company included with the pension application of the widow of Peter Van Pelt (W18198) lists "Burton Blesand," who was probably Burton Blizzard.

On 6 May 1839 Sarah Blizzard, 77, applied for a pension stating that she was married to Burton Blizzard by a Baptist preacher in December 1780, and her husband died on 17 March 1837. She added that Burton Blizzard's partial tour against the Tories was on the South Branch of the Potomac River. Her declaration was supported by Samuel Blizzard and by Frederick Keister. On 19 Oct 1840 Mary Swadley, 83, stated that she knew that Burton Blizzard and Sarah Keister had been married for more than 60 years, because her own youngest son had been born on 10 Oct 1781, and that Sarah Blizzard had a son born in the previous August.